Indian Mission in Rome

2285. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints including from Members of Parliament have been received against corruption and inefficiency prevailing in the Indian Mission in Rome;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the involved persons and to stop corrupt practices in foreign offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Complaints of inefficiency and corruption in the Indian Mission in Rome have been received from Shri B.S. Ramoowalia, Hon'ble M.P. and the public.

(b) The complaints related to the desire of a large number of persons who wanted to be immediately provided with duplicate passports in lieu of passports they had claimed to have lost before Italy announced an amnesty for illegal residents. There were also allegations of corruption in this regard.

(c) The complaints were thoroughly investigated. It was found that the complaints were not based on actual facts. Hence, no action against any official was found necessary.

Indian steps towards de-escalation with Pakistan

2286. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is taking all steps towards de-escalation with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the groundwork prepared by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Following General